

PID 84- 113 JX

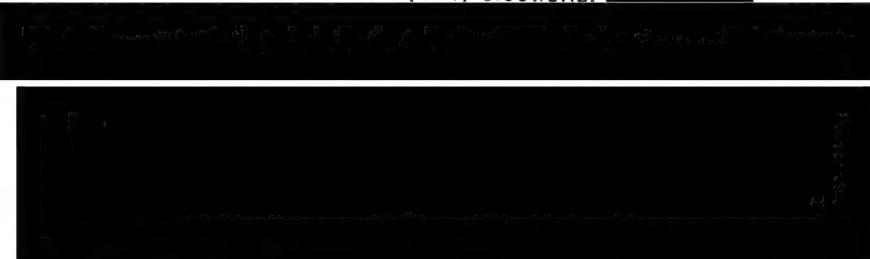
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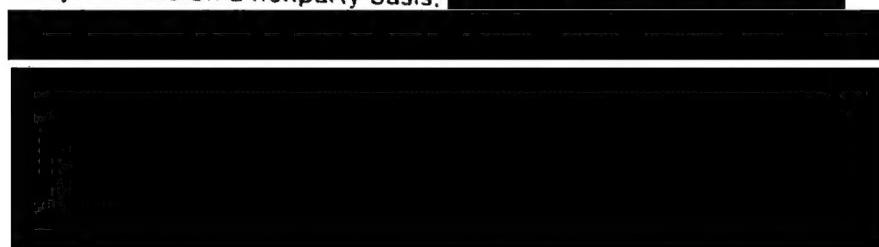
Preparing for Elections

*President Zia has begun maneuvering to ensure that a pliant national assembly is elected next spring.*

The government on Thursday banned all media reporting on political party activities. Zia told [redacted] earlier that he would not allow parties that have been outlawed to distort the democratic process and that he intends to hold nonparty elections. [redacted]



The opposition is in disarray. The moderate leftist Movement for the Restoration of Democracy is threatening to disrupt the elections if they are held on a nonparty basis. [redacted]



**Comment:** The opposition still lacks a unifying issue. The Movement's failure last fall to attract appreciable popular support for its campaign to restore democracy immediately suggests that it will also have trouble mobilizing support against Zia if he decides on nonparty elections. [redacted]

